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O N T H E
T H A N K S G I V I N G - D A Y,

Jan. 20th. 171⁴.



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SERMON

ON THE

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S E R M O N

Preach'd at

Blewberry in Berkshire,

January the 20th 171⁴.

BEING THE
T H A N K S G I V I N G - D A Y,
F O R H I S
M A J E S T Y's

Quiet and Peaceable Accession to
the BRITISH THRONE.

By JOSEPH ACRES,
Vicar of *Blewberry in Berkshire.*

L O N D O N:

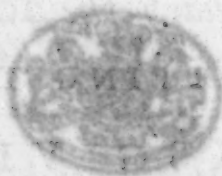
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SEERMON

Blottery in Berkshire



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MAY 1821

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PSALM CXXVI. 5, 6.

*They that sow in Tears, shall
reap in Joy. He that
goeth forth and weepeth,
bearing precious Seed, shall
doubtless come again with
rejoycing, bringing his
Sheaves with him.*



WHETHER this Psalm was composed by Ezra, when Cyrus gave them all leave to return to their own Land, or by another, when the vast Army of *Senacherib* was destroyed by an Angel in one Night, 'tis not very material; perhaps it was first made then, and afterwards applied with some alterations to their return from *Babylon*.

IF we consider some Clauses it will appear to be a triumphant Song for a surprizing and astonishing Deliverance from imminent Danger, v. 1. *We were like them that dream*, we were apt to look upon ourselves as only in a Dream of so great Happiness, v. 2. *Then said they among the Heathen, the Lord hath done great Things for them:* In which the Heathens themselves accompanied us, saying, This truly is the LORD's work, who hath magnify'd his Power in the strange Deliverance of this Nation.

They that sow in Tears, shall reap in Joy. A Time to weep, and a Time to laugh: GOD does commonly call us to Mourning and Lamentation before we are to hear the Voice of Joy and Gladness: And the truth of this appears in the works of *Nature*, of *Grace*, and *Providence*.

OF *Nature*; There was Darkness before Light, *the Evening and the Morning were the first Day*. The Earth must be prepared and mollified by Showers of Rain, and then the Plow will pierce it, and the Work will go on with Ease and Pleasure; the Seed that is sowed must be moistened with the Dew of Heaven before it shoots forth, and then afterwards with the former and latter Rain before the Husbandman is partaker of the precious Fruits of the Earth; before he comes with the joy of Harvest *bringing his Sheaves with him*. And it is the same with Plants and Trees, neither the one nor the other grew at the first Creation, no not in *Eden's Garden*, till there went up a Mist from the Earth and watered the whole

whole Face of the Ground. Thus a righteous Man, is likened to a *Tree planted by the water-side, which bringeth forth his Fruit in due Season, whose Leaf does not wither*, but is always fat and flourishing; and those which wither and die away, to a Plant in dry Ground.

IN the Work of *Grace*. The chief Spring of Conversion or Repentance is a Godly Sorrow, from the Sense of GOD's Goodness unto us, and our Ingratitude unto him: At first such Pious Souls might make their Bed to swim, and water their Couch with their Tears. A Soul must be weary and heavy laden before it can come to Christ: The remembrance of Sin must be grievous, and the burthen intolerable before they are qualified to go to him *whose Yoke is easy, and whose Burthen is light*; it is an humble and a broken Heart, an humble and contrite Spirit that is the proper Object of the Divine Mercy and Goodness: We can but faintly express the Pangs and Agonies of the new Birth; but as the Scripture doth set forth the most cutting Anguish by the Throws of a Woman in Travail, *she shall bring forth in Sorrow*; so there is none but those who have the experience of it can tell what are the unspeakable struggles to be turned from Darkness to Light: *We must be born again before we can enter into the Kingdom of Heaven*, and as the Natural Birth is accompanied with Pain and Cries, so the Spiritual with Sighs and Groans which cannot be uttered; the Time of Sorrow is not long in either of them, *John xvi. 21. A woman when she is in travail hath Sorrow because her Hour is come, but as soon as she is delivered of the Child, she remembreth no more the anguish, for*
Joy

Joy that a Man is born into the World: So when we are regenerate and born again, and made the Children of GOD by Adoption, and Grace the Fruits thereof are Joy unspeakable and full of Glory, Matth. v. 4. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

IN the Works of *Providence*, as to particular Persons, as to Nations and Churches.

THERE was no Man in the Earth like *Job*, a perfect and upright Man, one that feared GOD; and yet for a short Time GOD shewed him great and fore Troubles; he waited with Patience and the LORD was pitiful and of tender Mercy, blessing his latter end more than his beginning: After GOD had raised him from his low Estate, his Stock being doubled, he lived to see *his Sons, and his Sons Sons, even four Generations*, and died in a good Old-age, full of Riches, and full of Honour.

David a Man after GOD's own Heart was slandered by many; *Saul* sought to slay him, and he was hunted as he complains himself, *as a Partridge upon the Mountains; those that sate in the Gate spoke against him, and he was the Song of the Drunkards*: Yet, quickly after made King, and GOD gave his Master's House into his Hands and deliver'd him from the strivings of the People, made foreign Nations subject to him, and a People whom I have not known shall serve me, *Psal. xviii. 44. As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me, many shall heartily submit themselves to me, and others shall dissemble their Hatred and offer me their Service, v. 45. The Strangers shall fade away.*
They

They trembled and fell, like withered Leaves at the sound of my Name. G O D made him the Head of the Heathen clothing his Enemies with shame, but upon his Head did the Crown flourish; G O D made him a gracious Promise, that There should never be wanting to *David* one to sit upon the Throne.

J E S U S C H R I S T, who was the brightness of the Father's Glory, and the express Image of his Person, who was in the Form of G O D, and thought it no robbery to be equal with G O D, in whom the fulness of the Godhead dwelt bodily, was a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with Grief, stricken, smitten of G O D and afflicted, *his Soul was exceeding sorrowful even unto Death*, who sweat as it were great drops of Blood, who died the cursed, the painful, the ignominious Death of the Cross, and seemed to set in a Cloud: Behold and see if there was any Sorrow like his Sorrow, in the Day that the L O R D afflicted him, thus it became him to suffer before he reigned; but now G O D hath exalted him on high, and given him a Name above every Name, who is now entred into his Kingdom, and sits on the right Hand of God, being King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Thus in the Son of G O D himself the Crown of Glory was preceeded by a Crown of Thorns.

Now to give an Instance in Nations and Churches: Some Years after the Flood all Mankind had corrupted their ways, G O D called *Abraham* from, *Ur* of the *Caldeans*, who left his Native Country and his Father's House and went to *Canaan*, where he was both a
Stranger

Stranger and a Sojourner, and tho' he was eminent for his Faith in GOD by offering up his only Son, yet his Seed were to be Strangers in a Land that was not theirs, and were to serve their Enemies that should afflict and evil intreat them for many Years. Let us take a turn to *Egypt*, and behold what was their usage there; all *Joseph's* Time no reason to complain, who placed them in *Goshen*, the richest Soil in all that Kingdom; but when another King arose who knew him not, how were they oppressed? Their Enemies made their Lives bitter with hard Bondage, and made them serve with Rigour: How was GOD himself affected with their deplorable State? *I have seen the affliction of my People which is in Egypt, I have heard their Cry, for I know their Sorrows, and I am come down to deliver them*; after that a Red-Sea was passed over, and they were to go through a great, a terrible, and a howling Wilderness, and also over *Jordan* before they came to the promised Land; and when they were fitted for it by Tryals and Afflictions, GOD in a miraculous manner gave them Possession of the Land of *Canaan*, the richest of all Lands, a Land flowing with Milk and Honey, a Land wherein they might eat Bread without any scarceness; *Thou shalt not lack any Thing in it*; where they were fed with the Kidneys of the Wheat, and drank the pure Blood of the Grape; a Land whose Stones were Iron, and out of whose Hills thou mightest dig Brass; in short, GOD gave them the Lands of the Heathen, and they inherited the Labours of the People: What a train of Miracles did attend them thither, and by degrees to what an high Pitch of Glory was that Nation

tion, especially *Jerusalem* the Capital raised to ; when *GOD* had brought their Enemies in subjection under their Hand, and gave them rest in all their Borders. When *David* had subdued their Enemies, and *Solomon* had built the Temple, they might well sing with the *Psalmist*, *Walk about Zion, and go round about her, tell the Towers thereof, mark well her Bulwarks, consider her Palaces ; for this God is our God for ever and ever, he will be our Guide even unto Death.*

AND as the *Jewish*, so also the *Christian* Church was Planted in Tears and Blood ; Darknes before Light. When our Blessed Saviour who was *GOD* manifest in the Flesh to save Sinners from the Wrath to come ; to reconcile them unto God, to bring Life and Immortality to Light, to purchase for them an Inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away ; tells his Followers, *That they must expect Sorrow, that as the World had hated him, so it would hate them, that through many Tribulations they must enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, John xvi. 20. Verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye shall weep and lament, and you shall be sorrowful, but your Sorrow shall be turned into Joy.* When a Church was to be formed, it was not as *Adam* immediately put into *Eden*, a Place of Ease and Delight ; but in a Wilderness full of Briars and Thorns : The Cross was their badge here, and the Crown their reward hereafter. And this his Disciples quickly found by Experience ; for no sooner was he received into Glory, and the Gifts and Graces of the Holy Spirit poured down upon them, the Gospel Preached, and a Church Planted, but

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quickly

quickly a great Persecution was raised against them that were at *Jerusalem*, and they were all scattered abroad; their Enemies breathed out Threatnings and Slaughter against them, St. Stephen was stoned, and St. James was slain with the Sword: And as their Numbers encreased, so did the rage of their Enemies; all the Apostles died violent Deaths, St. John excepted. Persecution followeth Godliness as the Shadow doth the Body, 2 Tim. iii. 12. *All that will live Godly in Christ Jesus must suffer Persecution.* It were endless to go through all the Sufferings of the Christians for the first Three Ages; allow me to give an hint of the last, as it was the longest, so it was the blackest Persecution. The most effectual Arts were us'd to extirpate Christianity; the gates of Hell then tried their Strength, all were commanded to deliver up the Holy Scriptures, that so they might at once sink the Christian Religion: Whether Papal Rome has not Copied after Rome Pagan I will leave others to Judge. There is a Promise, *That the Rod of the Wicked shall not always rest upon the Back of the Righteous.* A bright Scene was opened, the Voice of Joy and Gladness was heard, the Emperor became a Christian, and a Nursing Father to the Church of CHRIST; which had then a long Time of Peace and Happiness, but as Riches encreased, and liberal Endowments were made by generous Princes, so Superstition and Will-worship, not to say any worse, spread every where, so that the whole Head was sick, and the whole Heart faint, a long Night of Darkness and gross Ignorance. But when by the benefit of Printing Knowledge was revived, the most Learned and Godly Men were quickly sensible there

was

was an absolute necessity of reforming and purging the Church from its Dregs, which by a surprizing Chain of most amazing Providences was begun here in the Reign of *Henry VIII.* who broke off the Papal Yoke, rooted up the old and rotten Oaks, I mean, the Abbeyes and Nunneries; and gave his Subjects leave to read the Holy Scriptures in their Mother-Tongue. What was then so happily begun, was brought to a greater degree of Perfection in the Time of our *English Josiah, Edward VI.* And had our Discipline been as effectually reform'd, as our Doctrine and Worship, the *English Church* might have been justly styl'd, *The Perfection of Beauty, the Joy of the whole Earth.* But when for the crying Sins of the People, GOD was pleas'd to take away that *Phoenix* of the Age, when Mass and Idolatry was set up all the Nation over by Queen *Mary*, who broke her Promise with the *Suffolk Men*, (but it is a Maxim of that Church, *Not to keep Faith with Hereticks*) and she got Cruel Laws to be made, and put in execution, with an unrelenting Rage; then the Reformation, as well as Christianity, was planted in Tears and Blood. Take a taste of the merciless Temper of *Papists*, and the Joy of Protestant Sufferers, in the *Mari- on* Persecution; and the best View I can give, is, is recording the last Words of that glorious Company of Martyrs; I shall just mention some of the first Worthies. When *Rogers* was led to *Smithfield*, in few Words, he desir'd the People, "To continue in the Doctrine that he had taught them; and for which he did most gladly resign his Life and Flesh,

" to the consuming Fire." When *Hooper* was persuaded to accept of the Queen's Mercy, since Life was sweet, and Death bitter: He answer'd, " The Death that was to come after, was more bitter; and the Life that was to come, was most sweet." When *Sanders* came to the Stake, he embrac'd it, and said, " Welcome, the Cross of Christ; welcome everlasting Life." When *Bradford* came to the Place of Suffering, he took a Faggot in his Hands, and kissed it, and so likewise kissed the Stake, and cry'd, " O England, repent, repent, beware of Idolatry, and false Anti-christs. His last Words were, " Strait is the Way, and narrow is the Gate, that leadeth into Eternal Life, and few there be that find it." When *Ridley* and *Latimer*, came to the Stake, they embrac'd one another with great Affection. *Ridley* saying to *Latimer*, " Be of good Heart, Brother, for GOD will either assuage the fury of the Flame, or enable us to abide it. And *Latimer* to him, " Be of good Comfort, we shall this Day light such a Candle in England, as I trust by GOD's Grace shall never be put out." *Philpot*, as he was led into *Smithfield*, kneel'd down, and said, " I will pay my Vows, in thee, O *Smithfield*. When he was brought to the Stake, he said, " Shall I disdain to suffer at this Stake, since my Redeemer did not refuse to suffer on the Cross for me? Perhaps, some may count it foreign to my Discourse, to observe, That *Ridley* and *Hooper*, who had a warm Contest about the Episcopal Vestments, suffer'd most in the Fire. Before their Death, there was a perfect Reconciliation; and they, that could not agree about

White

White and Black, did at last agree in Red ; I mean, in giving their Lives as a Testimony to the Truth of the Protestant Religion.

A Learned Prelate observes, That Queen *Mary I.* was a Woman of a strict and innocent Life, and constant at her Devotions ; that allow'd herself few of the Diversions with which Courts abound ; so that it is manifest, it was not her, but her Religion, that was the true Spring of all this Cruelty. We read, after the first sharp Persecution, That *the Churches had rest throughout all Judea, and were edified ; and walking in the Fear of the LORD, and in the Comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.* As soon as good Queen *Elizabeth* came to the Throne, she pitied the sighing of the Prisoners, and those that were appointed unto Death ; she commanded their Fetters to be knock'd off, and all set at Liberty that were in Prison for *Righteousness Sake.*

SHE herself in her Sister's Time was long kept a close Prisoner, and when discharged retired into the Country, and gave herself wholly to Study ; and thus she passed some Years under no small Apprehension, either of a violent, or a treacherous Death : Which was perhaps a necessary Preparation for that high Degree to which she was soon after advanced, and which she held in the greatest and longest Course of Prosperity that ever any of her Sex attained unto.

As the Consideration of the Protestant Religion was the chief Measure of our Councils
all

all the Reign of her dear Brother, so it was also in hers; she put herself at the Head of the Protestant Interest, supported the Reformed in *Scotland*, and in *France*, and in the latter *Henry IV.* was in a fair way to have ruined the League, all Opposition falling before him, and his Army was at the very Gates of *Paris*; and had not he meanly apostatized, *France* might even now have been a Protestant Kingdom. However the Reformed got the Edict of *Nants*, by which a full Liberty for the free exercise of their Religion, and several strong Forts for their Security; among which *Rochel* the Chief. And when the King of *Spain* was invading the Liberties of the *Low-Countries*, and endeavouring to bring in the Inquisition: She then assisted them at first more covertly with Money and Arms; but afterwards more openly with regular Troops. So that she put them in a Condition to secure their Liberties; and she with them intirely broke the Power of *Spain*, which was then aiming at an Universal Monarchy. She did great Things for those blessed Provinces; and when we were in Straits they did as much for us; chearfully venturing their Fleet, their Army, and their All, to save us from the Lyon's Mouth; and GOD was pleased to Crown all with most wonderful Success. Without this Deliverance, we had in all probability before this Time, been sunk into all the Corruptions of Popery, and into all the Miseries of Slavery.

THE Primitive and the Reformed Church sowed in Tears, and so did we at the Revolution: How great were the Agonies we were then

then in ! How did we besiege Heaven with our incessant Prayers, pour out our Souls to G O D, and weep in secret when our Enemies were ready to swallow us up quick ; their Wrath was so kindled against us ; when the Sons of the Prophets were expelled from the Beautiful Seminary of Learning, when the Locusts were creeping in and taking Possession of our Chapels and Chambers. Ah ! Oxford, Oxford, Ah ! Magdalen-College ; remember and let all thy Sons that have been educated in thee since, remember the Vows and Promises that were then made in the hour of Distress. I remember with Joy that Heavenly Temper for Peace and Love, that did then spread among Protestants of all Denominations ; when Popery our standing and formidable Enemy was coming in like an Innundation upon us, what an happy Turn was there then upon the Minds of People, both high and low, rich and poor together ! With mine own Eyes, I saw the late QUEEN acting a Part in the Glorious Revolution ; who generously left her Father's House and run the Risque of all, and put too her helping Hand to save the Church and State that were then in real Danger : I hope, this will be remembred to her lasting Honour. At the same Time, I saw a Noble Prelate at the Head of those Military Troops, who were raised to guard her, and to support that great Work. I hope I may be allowed to mention our Learned and Pious Bishop who in this Righteous Undertaking acted in Concert with the Chief of the then dignified Clergy : What he then did I believe some bad Men will never forgive, but I hope the best Patriots

Patriots will never forget, his Name will be had in everlasting remembrance.

Now to apply all to the present Royal Family who have *sowed in Tears*, and to ourselves, who have *gone forth weeping and bearing precious Seed*; and to come close to the Business of this joyful Day. The Unfortunate, but Pious Princess the Lady *Elizabeth*, Daughter to King *James I.* Grandmother to his Present Majesty, was Married to the Elector *Palatine*: They both suffered much for Righteousness sake; having lost *Bohemia* and the *Palatinate*, being driven out of all by the Rage and Power of Papists. God was pleased to cause them to wander in the Wilderness in a low Estate, to seek Protection and Nourishment in Foreign Lands; and she met with a Succession of Sorrows, *being fed with the Bread of Affliction*, and having Tears given her to Drink in a great measure; her Soul was exceedingly filled with the Scorning of those that were at Ease, and with the Contempt of the Proud. Good Lady, she was cast into an Ocean of Calamities, having no outward Blessing but a multitude of Children; to those that are afflicted, Pity should be shewed by their Friends: But to add to her Sorrows, which were exceeding great, she was but meanly Supported by her Father's House. This vertuous Lady had little left but Prayers and Tears; of these a large quantity were poured forth by the Reformed Churches, she lived not to receive an Answer to them in outward Prosperity as to her own Person: She *went forth weeping*, but it is we that *return*
with

with Rejoycing, bringing our Sheaves with us. God has promised, That the Seed of the Righteous shall be blessed. We now behold, (and O, that all of us would be exceeding glad!) One of her Issue sitting upon the British Throne. And here, Observe the wonderful, but gracious Turns of the Divine Providence! The Serene Elector and herself, lost all for being Protestants: But now, this Royal Branch of her Illustrious Family inherits, and has an actual and peaceable Possession of the Imperial Diadem of Great Britain, as being next in the Protestant Line. Godliness is profitable for all Things, having the Promise of this Life. It is not in vain to serve the Lord. His present Majesty reaps in Joy, what others sowed in Tears. Who ever saw the Seed of the Righteous forsaken?

Now to apply it to ourselves: Since the glorious Revolution, we have had many Ups and Downs; we have been for many Years like Mariners at Sea; when we hop'd to enter into the joyful Haven, new and violent Storms have risen, and we have been driven into the wide Ocean, and have been almost Shipwreck'd or split upon the Rocks; our Souls have melted because of Trouble: And when we were ready to sink for fear of these dismal Calamities that were coming upon us, in a very unexpected manner, God has been pleas'd to make the Storm a Calm; to turn our Weeping into Joy; and put a new Song into our Mouths. When we consider, the Insultings of our Enemies; their haughty Triumphs, but a
C few

few Months ago ; who could have thought, that His M A J E S T Y could have had so quiet and so peaceable an Accession to the Throne : *This is the L O R D's Doings, and it is marvelous in our Eyes ; This is the Day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoyce and be glad in it ;* which surprizes us with the greatest Admiration, and which we will celebrate with joyful Hearts, and with all Expressions of gladness, for so great a Benefit. It was with just admiration the Disciples said of our Blessed Saviour ; *Behold how the Winds and Seas obey him :* Now, consider how *these* were on our Side, both at the Revolution, and at his present M A J E S T Y's glorious Accession ; I know, this is an Argument that must be tenderly us'd ; then the Wind favoured them to avoid ingaging with the *English* Fleet : And when they were carried beyond the Place they intended to Land at ; how quickly did it chop about to bring their Ships in and out of the Harbour, and then a Storm broke the Fleet that was against them.

W H E N his present M A J E S T Y made his Passage at a Season when the Seas are rough, the Winds high, and Sailing begins to be dangerous ; how did G O D guide both the one and the other, so that he came safely in the midst of us : When he entred the Capital to go to his Palace, the Heavens smiled upon him ; a clear and serene Sky, when the Season was for Clouds and Rain : Above all, the Day of his Triumphant Coronation ; the Night before, Storms and Tempests with much Rain ; But
when

when the joyful Morning approached, all Clouds being scattered, the Sun came as a Bridegroom out of his Chamber, and all the Day attended on that great Solemnity, deck'd with such radiant Light, that no Bridegroom looks so chearfully, or is so adorned on his Marriage-Day.

WHEN the Royal Princess, the Wonder of the Age, and her lovely and sprightly Children took their journey, how did God watch over them for good; and made their going out and their coming in Prosperous; no Evil nor no Danger came near them; GOD kept them as the Apple of his Eye, and hid them under the Shadow of his Wing.

WE now reap in Joy; if we consider that we have a King that is the Delight of Mankind, *A Man after God's own Heart*, prudent in Matters, *And a Man of War from his Youth*; a King that will be the Head of the Protestant Interest, and inviolably preserve the Liberties of his Subjects; a King that will not only Reign over our Persons, but in the Affection of his People: But remember, you must not use him as too many did good King *William*, who was the Glory of the Age; whose Memory will be most dear to all of us, as long as we have any taste of *British Liberties*, and of the Protestant Religion. Remember, his present MAJESTY will be the Minister of GOD for good; a Nursing Father to the Church, *but a Terror to Evil doers*; that he will not bear the Sword in vain; he will not be like *Jupiter's*

Log, for Vermin to leap upon and play with. It was given out with great warmth, not long since by many; and they were certainly in the right, That Crown'd Heads were to be treated with profound Respect, and a due regard to those whom they delighted to Honour: I wish such Men would practice their own Doctrine, and then there would be no murmuring, nor no complaining; we should be at perfect Peace one with another.

WE have a King whose Eyes are upon the faithful of the Land, to serve him, *by which the Hearts of the Righteous are made glad, but the Wicked are filled with shame*: Those Noble Patriots who when they had the management of the State in their Hands, carried the *British* Glory to the highest Pitch, when our Arms by inimitable Conduct triumphed upon the *Danube* and the *Tage*: From the uttermost parts of the Earth, we have heard Songs even Glory to the Righteous; and had not the treacherous Dealers dealt very treacherously, we might have seen a happy and glorious end of the War. The King knows very well, that the best Christians, will be found the best Subjects; none so true to their Prince, as those that are most faithful to their GOD; *Righteousness exalteth a Nation.*

PERHAPS there may be some Sons of *Belial* who despise the King, and shew rather a Rage than a Zeal for our Church, tho' their Behaviour is a disgrace, and their Lives a reproach to it; of which their Riots and Tumults

Tumults are a convincing Proof ; let such remember, *that Stripes are for the Back of Fools ; speak no longer evil of Dignities, and of those Things which you understand not : Let such take Solomon's Advice, Where the Word of a King is, there is Power ; and the wrath of a King is as the roaring of a Lyon ; whoſo provoketh him to anger, ſinneth againſt his own Soul, Eccleſ. x. 20. Curſe not the King, no, not in thy Thought ; for a Bird in the Air ſhall carry the Voice, and that which hath Wings ſhall tell the Matter.*

REMEMBER, you have a Royal Prince, whom I have ſeen very exact at his Devotions according to the Form of the Church of England ; One that has every good Quality that is poſſible to recommend him to our Love and Admiration.

REMEMBER, you have a Royal Princeſs, that is a Proteſtant ; One, that having an Eye to the recompence of Reward, continued ſteady to her Religion under the moſt powerful Temptation : This, without her other excellent Accompliſhments, will make her Name precious to all Generations.

GOD only knows what were the Sorrows and Agonies of our Souls, at the unexpected Death of the late Bleſſed Queen *Mary* of glorious and immortal Memory ; ſhe was One of a moſt exalted Piety, had a true Senſe of thoſe unhappy Diviſions that were among Proteſtants, and was ready to do all that was in her Power to cloſe our Breaches ; that ſo
being

being united we might be *as terrible as an Army with Banners*: Who can remember without Tears the unspeakable loss both to Church and State by her immature Death! *God's Ways are unsearchable, and his Paths past finding out!* Who could then have thought *Great Britain* would in so short a Time have been blessed with such an excellent Royal Princess as we now see in the midst of us. May her Royal Highness continue to imitate that bright and shining Pattern of solid Piety, unaffected Devotion, and true Christian Charity; a few such Examples in Persons of the first Rank, would turn Earth into Heaven, or at least make *Great Britain* a Paradise.

REMEMBER, she has most hopeful and lovely Children, that have all the Beauty and Charms that can be expected in such young and tender Plants. May *God* continue to bless her with a most fruitful Off-spring, and make her like *Leah*, and like *Rachel*, which two did build the House of *Israel*: *Children are an Heritage of the Lord, and the Fruit of the Womb is his Reward.*

AND now my Hearers, I appeal to you, Whether others have not had a long time of Sorrow and Affliction; but it is we that have Songs of Joy put into our Mouths: *What shall we render unto the Lord? Let us take the Cup of Salvation, of Joy and Gladness, and call upon the Name of the Lord:* Let us magnifie the Power, Goodness, and Faithfulness of our *God*: Let us *bless the Lord as long as we live, let us sing praises,*

praises to our God as long as we have any being. And now we are gathered together to worship Him, and to give Him Thanks; come joyn with me, to bless and praise this GREAT DELIVERER, who after a short Correction, has broken in pièces the Power of ungodly Oppressors; He hath cut asunder the Cords of the Wicked: And may all those that hate us and our Religion, never have better success.

LET us remember, we are Brethren, and let us not fall out by the Way: We have *One LORD, One Faith, and One Baptism*, and let us *hold the Unity of the Spirit, in the Bond of Peace, and in Righteousness of Life*. Our Destruction can come only from ourselves; if we are at Peace one with another, we need not fear either the Policy or Strength of all those that are Enemies unto our Zion; but if *we bite and devour one another, we shall be consumed one of another*. Let us pray for the Peace of our Jerusalem; let them prosper that love her; let *Peace be within thy Walls, and Plenteousness within thy Palaces, that our Provisions may be abundantly blessed, our Poor satisfied with Bread, and fed with the finest of the Wheat; that there be no breaking in, nor going out, nor no complaining in our Streets*. May there be such Plenty and Riches as was in the Days of Solomon, when GOD gave Israel rest from all their Enemies.

MAY our Trade be restor'd where it has been lost; and may it be continued and preserved where it is, and has been in danger; may it be carry'd on to the uttermost Parts of the Earth, even to the Land of Ophir, and may we fetch from thence pure Gold:

Gold: And now Navigation is improv'd, may our Ships make a more speedy, and a more profitable Return than those of Solomon, and may the Riches of the *Indies* flow in upon us.

MAY Ways be found out to employ our Poor, that they may be no longer a growing Charge to the Nation, that there may be no useless Hands; and that none may want either Food or Work. We can't expect a Blessing beyond the Jewish Constitution; *The Poor shall never cease out of the Land, you shall always have the Poor with you*, as we read in the Gospel. But surely, if we would try in good earnest, a Way may be found, that not so many of them should eat the Bread of Idleness.

MAY Great Britain continue an *Asylum* for Strangers, a Refuge and a Sanctuary to embrace with open Arms all those who are forc'd to leave their Native Country for the sake of a good Conscience: *In the multitude of People, is the Honour and Riches of a Prince*; then will GOD *delight to dwell in the midst of us, and will be a Wall of Fire round about.*

MAY effectual Methods be taken for the suppression of Prophaneness and Immorality; for the encouragement of Vertue and Piety: May we have such Men in Office in every Post, whose Light may shine before others; who may have Courage to appear for GOD when Men make void his Law: And may all Iniquity stop its Mouth, now we have such pressing Commands from the supream Authority, and such bright Examples given us
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by the Royal Family: Let the Societies for the Reformation of Manners awake out of Sleep, and once more lift up their Heads and go up and down doing good; having a zeal for God and Sobriety, accompanied with Wisdom, Knowledge and Discretion.

LET the Religious Society for the increase of Christian Knowledge at home, carry on that useful Work that is so happily begun; that in every Family there may be a Bible, and One that can read in that Blessed Book. The first Reformers were call'd *Gospellers*, for their diligent reading the Holy Scriptures, and careful searching into the meaning of them: But when will that thirst for Knowledge be revived?

LET the Honourable and Reverend Corporation for the Propagating Religion in Foreign Parts, send such Missionaries as may recommend Christianity to the Savage *Indians* by their unblameable Lives, and convince their Judgments by their solid Arguments; and *being thoroughly furnished unto every good Work*, may the Influences of the Holy Spirit go along with them, that so a marvellous Light may break in upon them that have set so many Ages in Darkness and the shadow of Death: May the Light of the Gospel shine from the rising of the Sun to the going down of the same; and may God open the Hearts of those that are rich in this World, that they be rich in this good and glorious Work. When all these Things shall come to pass, and we

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have them now in view, then, in some measure, will that Prophecy be fulfilled of, *A new Heaven and a new Earth, wherein dwells Righteousness.*

To conclude; May our KING excel all the Kings of the Earth in Riches and Wisdom, in Happiness and Honour; and when he comes in a good Old-age to be gather'd to his Fathers, may he change this earthly for a heavenly Crown; and may there never be wanting some of his Royal Family sitting upon the *British* Throne, being Just, and ruling in the Fear of the LORD, as long as the Sun and Moon endures.

F I N I S.

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